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The Knothole, December 13, 1971

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THE KNOTHOLE

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 13, DECEMBER 13, 1971

JUSTICE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

BY JOHN N. MITCHELL
Attorney General of the United States

HOVERTER MEMORIAL
ARCHIVES

Young people have always played a primary role in focusing attention of the Nation on the quality of our environment and the importance of insuring that clean air and water are available for future generations.

During the past two and one-half years, the Department of Justice has recognized the urgency of their concern and has given top priority to the enforcement of federal laws relating to environmental protection.

Our original approach was to give new emphasis to a 72-year-old law — the 1899 Refuse Act — and to use it as one of our most effective weapons against polluters. Under the Refuse Act all industries which discharge any waste into navigable waters on their tributaries must apply for a permit to do so from the Corps of Engineers, stating that the waste does not pollute the water. If a company discharges without a permit, it is in violation of the law and may be fined as much as \$2,500 a day upon conviction.

Criminal actions and civil penalty actions are brought against sporadic or accidental polluters, as in the case of oil spills from ships or from shore installations. We found, however, that the penalties carried by these statutes are ineffective against major industries with continuous discharges.

Therefore, in March 1970, we adopted a second approach to stop polluting by asking the courts to issue civil injunctions. The relief requested in an injunction suit is that the company be ordered to stop discharging its wastes into the tributary or navigable water.

Generally, an attempt is made to negotiate a settlement which specifies treatment facilities to render the waste harmless to the receiving waters. In the event a settlement cannot be reached, the Court is asked to totally stop the discharge.

Since the beginning of 1969, the Justice Department has filed more than 300 criminal cases seeking fines against polluters. In addition, we have filed more than 65 civil actions for injunctions.

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The first civil injunction suit brought under the Refuse Act to abate pollution was filed against the Florida Power and Light Company to halt the discharge of heated water from its power generating plants into Biscayne Bay.

After the federal judge ruled that the discharge of thermal waste is a violation of the Refuse Act, the utility company agreed to undertake a \$30 million construction program to lower the temperature of its water discharge to a biologically acceptable level.

This case has resulted voluntary compliance by promises of additional improvements to many power plants in operation or to be built throughout the United States.

In mid-1970, the Justice Department filed 10 civil injunction cases to halt mercury pollution. Some of the companies sued were dumping as much as 300 pounds of mercury a day into rivers. One of the plants sued closed down and the other nine immediately reduced their mercury discharge to less than half a pound a day. Forty other plants discharging mercury voluntarily cut back their emissions to a fraction of a pound.

Thus, in a period of about six months, we virtually eliminated the hazard that faced the country from the continual dumping of mercury already in the water, but we have brought to a virtual halt any additional pollution.

We have achieved a similar solution to the discharge of sulfite wastes in Washington State with the agreement of the large ITT-Rayonier complex to install upwards of \$20 million of pollution control equipment.

We have also vigorously enforced the Refuse Act against companies that discharge toxic and hazardous substances such as cyanide, phenol, chromes and lead into rivers and streams. The first case to go to trial involving such discharges was against the Armco Steel Corporation on the Houston Ship Channel in Texas. In that case the District Court held, in September 1971, that the Company's toxic discharges should be stopped forthwith.

The three United States Attorneys whose districts cover the New York waterfront are also using the Refuse Act to clean up the New York Harbor and other waterways in their areas.

Of special interest is the provision of the Refuse Act authorizing payment of half of the fines imposed on polluters to persons who provide information leading to a conviction. Courts have authorized such payments in recent years.

And through the use of still another federal law, the Justice Department prosecuted several oil companies for failing to install safety devices on wells located in the Gulf of Mexico, which resulted in the leakage of thousands of barrels of oil off the coast of Louisiana. The companies paid fines totaling more than \$2.25 million.

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The Department of Justice will continue and intensify its efforts to enforce federal anti-pollution laws, but every segment of our society must share in the responsibility for improving the quality of our water and air.

The full resources of states and localities must be brought to bear on this problem. And, in a nation where governmental power is conferred by the people, the interest and enthusiasm of young people will continue to be a primary factor in our campaign for a clean environment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

To the Editor and the College Community,

Thank you very much for the generous response to the recent "goodie drive" we ran with the CSEA. Enough "goodies" were gathered to assemble numerous "Thanks Packs" for the men and women in Vietnam, which will surely brighten up the most dismal perimeter bunker this Christmas.

Thanks again for caring about our brothers and sisters and let's hope this is the last year this has to be done.

PEACE: THE VIETNAM VETERANS
AGAINST THE WAR

To the Editor,

In reply to Ken Landry and many other LA students (KNOTHOLE, Nov. 16), I appeal to your esthetic sense of beauty as to which looks better — a nice green lawn or a piece of trampled dirt with sparsely growing grass.

-BOB LOVELESS

THE KNOTHOLE: The student publication of the State University College of Forestry at Syracuse University. Published every Monday. Student and faculty who have ideas about our College, notices they wish published, suggestions, stories, poems or anything that they think might interest our readers, are encouraged to submit these to the Knothole. Please sign name to articles and date them as well. Articles should be put in the Knothole mailbox no later than ten days before publication. Anyone interested in joining the Knothole Staff is invited to contact any of our members either in person or via student mail. We also welcome any comments and/or criticisms. These should be placed in the Knothole mailbox.

STAFF: Editor: Evan Dentes; Associate Editor: Bob (Montana) Brown; Artwork: John Karoly and Bob Brown; Reporting: Barbara Steves, Sally Butler and Steve Jones; Special Assistance: Don Schaufler; Faculty Advisor: Dr. J. V. Berglund; Typist: Doreen Squire.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS KNOTHOLE

COMMITMENT

There is a lot of talk making the rounds these days under the heading of environmental concern. Let me tell you about one organization that is attempting, somewhat successfully, to get itself past the "I'm concerned" stage to the "I'm doing something" about the problem stage. Its called the Graduate Student Association's Committee on the Environment.

You've hears of Ralph Nader task forces which research consumer problems. But do you know that Universities and Colleges in Oregon and in Minnesota have banded together, with Nader organizational help, forming 14 man full time task forces to tackle relevant environmental issues within their respective states.

GSA, with your help, would like to assist in establishing such a group in our state. If you have a genuine interest in implementing real solutions, through adequate research, to environmental problems, whether you're a graduate or undergraduate, then the place for you is Room 334 Illick, on Monday, December 13, 12 noon for the next committee meeting of GSA. Bring your lunch.

Marshall Street, the "downtown" business area for University and College students, is a bit of a dirty, grimy place these days. You're first stop in making it cleaner, and therefore more attractive might be with GSA.

We all are informed to some extent concerning today's environmental problems; solid waste disposal, water pollution, air pollution, etc., but the problems remain because too few people have had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully toward solutions. The recycling project which started in Del Plain Dorm is one of the few means of contribution within our local environment. Most of us have looked around in the past and wanted to help solve environmental problems as they relate to personal living situations. The trouble is that on official levels response to our concern is usually sparse or non-existent. The result for us is eventually apathy, simply because we recognized problems towards those solutions we could only contribute our emotions and spirit.

However, if you base your approach on researching all the pros and cons of the problems and come up with irrefutable evidence which dictates the best course to problem solution, you can't go wrong, and your work will go a long ways to correcting the ills of present day society.

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IT SURE WAS FUN LEARNING
ABOUT PLANT RESPIRATION



SCHOLAR INCENTIVE AND REGENTS SCHOLARSHIP REFUND CHECKS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE - ROOM 102 - BRAY HALL. PLEASE CHECK THE LIST OF STUDENTS FOR WHOM CHECKS ARE AVAILABLE. THESE LISTS ARE POSTED AS FOLLOWS:

MARSHALL HALL STUDENT LOUNGE

STUDENT SERVICES (OUTSIDE ROOM 107 BRAY)

LIBRARY (MAIN ENTRANCE BULLETIN BOARD)

For Knothole 12/13/71 Release

We have the facilities at the College to assist in finding solutions. We realize the necessity of facing up to the problems of a deteriorating environment. GSA has provided a means of attaining these ends.

See you at the meeting.

-R. NIXON

The land is crossed and crossed again
with nothing new occurring
or thought of occurring
prepared in school
for useful adult-hood
all creativity gone
I've finally learned

SOCIAL MAN, 1971

We walk on
an interview today
on forty-forth and forth
the corner on which sits the dwarf
they say the words making them sound
like good village wine
"no job this time"
I could never be an insurance man anyway
haven't the legs for it

We walk on
through this driven land
this land of one consciousness
alternatives all measured by money,
percents, probabilities and levels
of significance
bringing "dynamic obsolescence"
closed thoughts and hidden drives
leaving a cloud covering all
I do not try any longer to be open and true
you'll be blue
-they'll trick you

We walk on
my path already tread
ruts rotting
with time

THE GRADUATE STUDENT'S
COLUMN

If you are a graduate student and don't give a damn about this College, your curriculum and degree requirements, your health and safety, your financial situation, and you could care less about intellectual growth and social interaction then don't read this. It's not for you!

Those of you who have elected to read on are probably aware that the organization of which all graduate students are members (the GSA) is concerned and active in all the above mentioned

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areas. I will be attempting by way of this column to inform you of what the GSA is doing. If you have any questions or suggestions about what GSA has done, will do, or should be doing, send a note through Campus Mail to: Linda Lasure, Dept. of Botany. The best way of communicating is to come to the meeting every Thursday at noon in Room 334 Illick.

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS student involvement has been an issue eliciting considerable noise. Perhaps we are now moving toward quieter involvements. One example of this is the recent cooperation between the Graduate Committee and the GSA in getting a graduate student on the Graduate Committee. In the process, a little known fact has been revealed. The Faculty By-Laws do not allow student voting membership on faculty committees. Some say it is time for students to move wholeheartedly into governance on this campus. If so, the first obstacle seems to be getting voting representation on faculty committees.

Continuing on the matter of committee membership another question of concern at GSA meetings has been the absence of students on Dean's Committees. If these committees are the President's Committees (not Faculty Committees) it would seem that students could have voting membership. Since Deans do affect students, students should be represented on these committees.

In regard to this whole area, a question keeps coming up and to my knowledge remains unanswered: What does a Dean do?

SHORT NOTES

Jim Welsh, President of the GSA, is singing a new song these days. It is called "Constitution Revision Can Be Fun." The GSA and Forestry Council are working closely considering revisions in the respective constitutions. We should expect to see some interesting changes. If Constitutions are your bag, see Jim Welsh, WPE.

The GSA will sponsor its usual social gatherings this year. Anyone with ideas or volunteers should contact Wil Cote, F. Entomology. Comments on the November 19, 1971 TGIF would be appreciated. You got a beef? I dare you to bring it to the GSA.

-LINDA LASURE

1971 CHRISTMAS VACATION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY	DECEMBER 18, 1971	8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
SUNDAY	19	CLOSED
MONDAY	20	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	21	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	22	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	23	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	24	8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	25 & 26	CLOSED
MONDAY	27	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	28	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	29	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	30	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
FRIDAY	31	8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
SATURDAY	JANUARY 1, 1972	CLOSED
SUNDAY	2	1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
MONDAY	3	RESUME REGULAR HOURS